

STL11057

10/665,784

Remarks

The Applicant is submitting this preliminary amendment and response along with a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

The Applicant has carefully read and reviewed the Office Action mailed March 8, 2005, and the references cited therewith. Claims 1-5, 7-16, and 18-20 were rejected. Claims 6 and 17 were objected to. Claims 8-18 have been canceled in this response. Claims 21-30 have been added. Claims 1-5, 7, and 21-30 are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

Claims 8 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b). Claims 8 - 18 have been canceled in this response.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 8-20 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the previously objected to limitations of claim 6. Claims 2-5 and 7 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable as dependent claims providing additional limitations to an allowable independent claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the recognition of allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 17.

STL11057

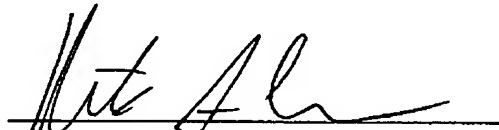
10/665,784

Conclusion

Claims 1-5, 7, and 21-30 are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record, therefore, reconsideration of claims 1-5, 7, and 21-30 is requested.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable action with respect to the present application is requested.

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